4th August 1955]

SRI R. KUPPUSWAMY :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister when it will come into force ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The incerase of bed-strength has already been effected. Provision of steam laundry will be considered in connexion with the next year's budget. Some other recommendations are under consideration or they are being proposed to be included in the Second Five-Year Plan."

Village officers serving as Branch Postmasters.

* 1916 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any prohibition for village officers to hold the office of Branch Postmasters;

(*b*) how many village officers in Malabar district hold the office of Branch Postmasters; and

(*c*) whether any and if so, how many village officers were refused permission to hold such office in 1953 and 1954 in Malabar?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Four.

" (*c*) One in 1953 and one in 1954."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Arising out of the answer to clause (*c*), may I know, Sir, why these two were refused permission to hold office as Branch Postmasters? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Because it was thought it would interfere with their normal work as village officers."

Electricity for agricultural purposes.

* 1917 *Q.*—SRI D. DASARATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to extend the supply of electricity for agricultural purposes to Wandiwash taluk?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Schemes for extension of supply to Pernamallur and Ariyapady villages in Wandiwash taluk and to street lights in Wandiwash Panchayat area have been sanctioned and these are programmed to be taken up for execution during 1955–56. In addition, the 33 K.V. line from Kancheepuram to Wandiwash will be taken up for execution during 1955–56 and when completed, it will be possible to further extend supply for agricultural purposes in the taluk."